An Essay
on
Examination of the Patient, and Diagnosis
With
Cases.

Respectfully Submitted
to the
Faculty,
of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania,
on the
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Eighteen hundred and fifty Three

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of Pittsburgh.
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Prefatory Remarks

On reflecting in search of a subject on which to write a medical thesis, it strikes me that this is as good, at least, as many others, and something that is altogether practi-

For me at this late date February 5th, 1855 and in the midst of agitation and excitement to attempt to write any thing of importance on this or any other subject, in the time to which I am limited, is indeed, to expect too much of myself. But as the rules of this institution require an essay of those who de-re its honors I shall cheerfully make the attempt. It is no doubt a wise and judicious plan to ascertain, at least, some of the literary, scientific and medical qualifications of the writer. At the same time it is pretty generally believed that there are many persons who can tell about all they know if not something more, and that there are others again of good qualities, who can express themselves but indifferently on the subjects with which they are very well acquainted —

which they are pretty well acquainted, But that
This digression may not be prolonged to an im-
pardonable length, I shall hasten to write briefly
on a subject of which I am sorry to confess I
know too little.

The duty of the Homoeopathic Physician,
Examination of the Patient, and diagnosis.

According to Hahnemann the sole duty of the
physician is to restore health in a mild,
prompt and durable manner. And we might add
at as little expence, and inconvenience, to the pati-
-ent as possible.

The physician owes many duties to himself as
well as to his patients, which will probibly indicate
what relation he sustains. He should posse
all the patience of Job; firm and undaunted
courage united with the most perfect amiability
and oftentimes, the mildness, and the humi-
-lity of the saint, and the true physician ever
does possess a large share of benevolence and true
philanthropy. The life of the physician is not
an easy one by any means, because he often
has to labour hard, and incessently, and at
and wait on his patients when it would be
more reasonable that some person should be
waiting on him. Many times all the powers of

he may possess are taxed to their utmost ca

The Homoeopathic physician has not only to co
-tend with unprincipled Allopaths and the prejud
-ice natural against things that are new, but
with the weakness of human nature and the
ingratitude of his patients and their friends m
many cases. It is also true that he often rece
the soul cheering gratitude of those whom he
has snatched, as it were, from the jaws of de
and a premature grave, and restored them
to ~~Health and~~ to their friends, besides t
consciousness of having done all in his powe
for those who have confided themselves to his

As to his qualifycations, he must possess at le
a general knowledge of all things; that is, he
must be a Theologian, a jurist, and a Physio
combined, as well as a Physician. Notwithstand
all this he does not posses a standing with
the community equal to either of the form
indispensable as his services many times
appears to them to be. But we cannot well wonder a
this when we consider that but a very few
physicians of the old school can agree upon
any one thing in the practice of medicine, except
it be to underrate and abuse each other, and
cordially to calumniate and misrepresent not
only Homoeopathy but its advocates with a de

of zeal seldom equaled and that is worthy a better cause.

Examination of the Patient.

Hahnemann teaches that for the physician the totality of the symptoms alone constitute the disease. The Homoeopathic physician regards disease of all kinds less as a local affection than a general constitutional disturbance or derangement of the vital principle. Hence the importance of ascertaining the nature and extent of this derangement. To remove which derangement and cure the disease it is merely requisite to remove the entire group of symptoms, which cannot be always done without the discovery and removal of the fundamental cause, which mostly consists in some chronic miasm, such as Psora, Sycosis or Syphilis, which Hahnemann holds to be the source and root of all disease, or all the ails, and aches, to which human flesh is heir.

Hahnemann says we cannot know anything about disease except the symptoms. & it is true that the symptoms in their totality reflect the internal disease, that is the ap-

true that the disease is essentially cured as
soon as the symptoms are permenantly removed.

According to Rau, the safety of the treatment
depends upon a correct diagnosis, yet he
says he does not expect us to be able to pe-
-ntrate the mysteries of nature to ascertain it
but we nevertheless must endeavor to know
as much about disease as possible, that is
the derangement of the internal vital proce-
which he further says manifests itself to
our senses only by symptoms, when all the
symptoms are removed by the appropiate spe-
-cific remedy the disease is at the same ti
entirely cured and health is not only appare-
-ly, but essentially and permanently restore
He says to suppose any thing else would
be to suppose that disease consists in a
material something that might still lurk wi
-in some part or corner of the organism
waiting till a more favourable opperturni
should offer for it to come forward and
develope itself in all its pristine vigor an
and material presence

Diagnosis

The object of diagnosis is to know dise

Etiology is the doctrine of morbific caus-

The Homoeopathic science of pathogenesis is a sort of practical Etiology, and is intima- connected with the doctrine of the deleteri- influences which exist previously to, and open a way for the disease. Both these doctrines are indispensible to the diagnos- -tician, because a correct diagnosis is fre- -ently impossible, without a knowledge of the causes that have produced the disease.

Rau tells us that disease cannot be treated as long as it does not manifest itself by perceptible phenomena. The principal means of diagnosis is therfore is

Symptomatology, or the doctrine of the symptoms. In its lowest form it may be termed nosography a doctrine which teaches the mode of making a correct record of the external, perceptible symptoms of the dise-

A higher form of this doctrine, is of the in- -nal acceptation of the symptoms, or semeiotics which in connection with nosography, has elevated diagnosis to a higher rank

For the purpose of of taking a record of the symptoms, there is no universal rule without

to suit the convenience, fancy or taste of the person who is making such record. The rule adopted by Hahnemann in making the record of the pathogenesis of the Materia Medica, is probibly in many cases, as convenient as any other plan, it has this disadvantage however that it often happens that some parts mentioned in this divission are not affected in such a manner as to cause perceptible phanomena or symptoms in them, in this case however the rule can be changed or deviated from to suit each particular case.

Hahnemann's plan is to commence with the Mind and Disposition, first taking down all the symptoms that can be elicited under that head, he then goes on to the Sensorium - and going through with a like process, and then passing on in regular order to the symptoms of the Head, Scalp - Eyes - Ears - Nose - Face - Teeth - Mouth - Pharynx and Esophagus - Appetite and Taste - Gastric Symptoms - Stomach - Hypochondria - Abdomen - Stools - Urinary organs - Sexual organs - Larynx and Trachea - Chest - Back - Superior Extremities - Inferior Extremities - Sleep - Fever - Skin - and lastly the Characteristic Peculiarities ——

Rau thinks the proper method is to le
the patient state his case as he recollects i
in the order which the symptoms have dev
-oped themselves. He says this plan will gi
the physician a general idea of the char
-ter of the disease, and of the organs which
are more particularly affected, and will en
-ble him to give his questions a more defi
shape. It is true the physician seldom
succeeds in obtaining a correct idea of his
patients illness after one examination as the
patient at first is generally somewhat excite
and does not always show his real condition
until he has become somewhat accustom
to the doctor.

It is also of great importance, for the
physician when making the record of a case,
after having taken down all the symptoms
which he may be able to find out either
from the patient, his friends or by his own
observation, no matter what plan or order
of record he may adopt, always to indeavo
to investigate every thing which may hav
a tendency to shed light on the case
before him. Whether hereditary disposition
temprament and constitution, idiosyncracy

effeminacy, injurious attempts to harden the constitution, excessive efforts in studying, want of exercise, hard work at too early an age, bad or unwholesome nourishment, ex-
-ement of the fancy by novel reading, on-
-ism, excesses in venery, occupations, irregu-
waking and sleeping, bad habits such as smoking, or chewing tobacco, or taking snu-
unhealthy situation and particularly of one's sleeping apartments, want of cleanl-
-ess and fresh air, unhealthiness of the climate, hurtful modes of dressing, tigh-
lacing, tight cravats or garters, too ligh-
or too heavy covering inducing either a deficiency or excess of perspiration etc.

Rau speaks of examining the pat-
under the heads of what he calls, the dif-
-ent spheres, as for instance the conditio-
of the sensative sphere. Under this sphere, or head, would come every variety derangement of the organs of sence e.g. of fe-
-ing, sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell e-
as well the increase as the decrease o-
the sensibility of the organism in genera-
which have to be observed with peculiar attention to the relation of the cerebral

And certainly the more correctly the are studied in relation to the symptoms the more correct and scientific will be the treatment. He would have us next go to the irritable sphere, which is also of great importance to the physician, because it includes all the deviations from the normal standard of the action of the sanguiferous system, which is indicated most generally by the pulse, the action of the heart, and venous pulsation.

In the next place come the symptoms of the reproductive system which deserve the same attention as the foregoing spheres. To this head belong the symptoms peculiar to the digestive system, the anormal symptoms of which are various and of great importance to the Homoeopathic physician.

I shall here introduce 3 or 4 cases of acute disease, treated by myself, I do not say by way of practical illustration because they do not fairly illustrate the foregoing remarks, and doctrines, as fully as could desire, nevertheless they are not without some practical importance, as the

remedies over some of the worst forms of
acute disease. But what I mean to say
is that it will take a long course of practi
as well as much patient Study for any ord
-nary man to be able to see and appreciat
all the bearings of disease on the organ
and be able to apply the specific remedi
in accordance with all the nicities of the
indications. I find in it a labour that I
had not anticipated. I did not think who
first I put my hand to the plow, what I
should have to suffer in anxiety, toil, and
labour for Homoeopathy. I however must
confess it has opened up to my mind a
new and rich field for labor, a new
life as it were, but not without its thorn

The first case I shall notice is one
I presume of not very common occurrence
It is a case of Erysipelas attended
with hysteric convulsions. The subject
was a married lady aged about 30, health
in her appearance of nervo-sanguine te
-perament.
July 19th 1851. I was called to see her, she ha
been labouring under most frightful co

laughing, then crying, and weeping, and
then insensible; sometimes requiring
two or three persons to keep her from
doing herself injury. These spells would
remit some times for a few minutes, she
would then complain of intense pain in
the head and lower part of the chest. The
pulse was full and hard. She has erysipe-
-las of the arm from above the elbow down
over the hand and fingers of which she co-
-plained very much. She has her menses
on her which commenced with dysmenor-
which is generally the case with her.

For these symptoms I prescribed Aco-
1st dilution and Belladonna 1st dilution alt-
-nately at first every 10 then every 15 and 20
minutes till better, after taking a few tea-
-spoonfuls the spasms began to subside
and in less than an hour she arose and
walked up stairs to bed; after this she
took the medicine less frequent. In six
hours she had intense fever, pain in
the head, back, and between the shoulders
has had no more convulsions since got
up stairs. Continues the same medicine
through the night every 3 or 4 hours when
not sleeping

July 20th A.M. This morning she is vastly
better; has had no return of convulsions,
has very little fever, slept pretty well, hea
and arm improved very much. Under th
use of these remedies in the course 4 to 6
days she had completely recovered. She re
ained well about one year and then h
another attack similar to the first exce
This last time she had no erysipelas. Th
same remedies administered in the sam
manner produced the same good effe
and as promptly as in the first attack.
She has remained well up to this time

Case 2 Mrs. B's child a girl aged about
18 month, of delicate and slender make
June 5th 1851 Has had whooping cough
for some weeks. It has tender and tum
abdomen; short panting breathing; is cuti
tuth; has symptoms of inflamation of the
brain, head hot and boring with the vert
in the pillow; eyes firmly closed with
heavy frowning; frequent jerking and
starting. It has been taking Homeopathic
powders from Dr P without improvement
I prescribed chamamilla and Mercu
[illegible]

June 6th A.M. Not much change since yesterday; bowels however not so tender no hot Discontinues the chamomile and mercurius vivus, and takes Aconite and Bell alternately every 3 hours with but little change in the evening, is to continue the same medicines through the night

June 7th A.M. This morning has less fever, has had some diarrhoea thin and yellow through the night, mouth dry, pulse quick and feeble, still continues to bore the vertex in the pillow, The bowels are not so tender nor tumified.

Gave Aconite and Mercurius vivus alternately every 3 hours; In the evening apparently better in every way, more lively, head not so warm, less diarrhoea, cough fever etc

Continue the same medicines through the day

June 8th Rested well all night, is much better in every way. Continue the same medicines.

In evening a good deal of pain in bowels and restless - For these symptoms I gave Chamomilla, it went to sleep a few minutes after taking the first dose

June 9th A.M Rested well all night and
and is greatly improved in every way
the head appears entirely relieved, it appears
more affected by weakness than disease
In this case the whooping cough,
teeth and all other morbid symptoms
went off together. It has become healthy
has grown very much and has not been
sick since —

Case Third, is a boy, the child of A. B. aged
18 months large and strong, generally healthy
July 1st, 1851 was taken with cholera infantum
Vomiting, purging, and great prostration,
An Allopathic physician was called in who
drugged it after the old fashion without any
relief till the third inst. when it was finally
-ly given over by the Dr. and all to die, At
this time I was called in 9 o'clock P.M. when
I found it exhausted and emaciated or shrunk
as if it had been ill for a long time, it was
cold, skin bluish, apparently sleeping or
more like dying, with eyes partly open, the vom
-iting and purging had continued up to this
time, the evacuations watery, and intense
thirst.

I prescribed Arsenicum and Veratrum

July 4th A.M. This morning is every way a good deal better than any time since taken, has not vomited since taking the first dose of medicine, not near so thirsty nor so stupid has had none of the sinking spells of which they complained; it is warm and moist, the bowels continue to move often.

Continues the same medicine every 2 & 3 hours

July 5th It rested a good deal better last night; so much improved that it scarcely appears to be the same child, It went on improving and in a few days was as well as but thin and pale.

Case 4th The little son of Mrs. M'K aged 2 years, nervo-sanguine temperament with a large head, temples and forehead full of large blue veins; generally healthy, but of a strumous constitution inherited from his mother who is strongly predisposed to Phtisis Pulmonalis, for a long time subject to Asthma and cough.

This child was taken ill three or four days ago, has been better and worse since

December 23rd 1852 - 8, A.M. I was first called to see him, The parents becoming very much alarmed, had him rubed over with goose

operated several times on the bowels.

I found him labouring under great opp-
-sion of the chest, with dyspnoe and short
hurried respiration; very little cough & face
pale and bluish; congistion of lung and hea
strongly marked; very stupid; pulse small
and so quick that I could not count it
great thirst, drinking but little at a ti

In back part of the lungs respiratory mur
absent but some crepitating rhonchus, whic
is regarded by Pathologists as pathognomic of
first stage of pulmonic inflamation, there
a good deal of of Bronchal respiration, whic
is said to be always more audible in pro-
-tion to the solidification of the parenchymat
structure of the lungs, this is heard about
base of the lungs; he had vomited some
and the tongue is thickly coated —

For these symptoms I prescribed Aconi
and Bryonia alternately every 2 hours

5, Oc P.M, I found more reaction; the face
red and flushed; more cough which
appears a little looser; otherwise the symp
are much the same as in the morning

I thought it best to continue the sa
medicines every 3 hours through the nigh

Dec 24th, A.M, He rested and slept some lo

and red, with some determination to the
head, pulse much the same as yesterday
cough loose, and considerable blowing
and whistling in the chest, rather more
lively and not so much thirst
He discontinues the Aconite and con-
tinues the Bryona every 3 hours
Dec 26th A.M.- Has been doing well since I
last saw him, this morning he is greatly
improved, lively and playing about the
room, still a good deal of loose cough
he would not allow me to examine the
chest this morning, the thirst is all gone
A bright red eruption has made its ap-
-arance on the nape of the neck, the bowels
still continue to be loose, the evacuations
are of natural colour
This morning I gave Belladonna
to be taken every six hours
By the use of these remedies this
child got entirely well, in three or four
days it was so far recovered that it
was able to play about the room -
I was obliged to give Podophyllum Pel-
-atem for the bowel affection which acted
like a charm, and it has remained
well to this time -

Mr. D.G. a young man aged about 18 years generally healthy, a turner by trade, of mixed sanguine temperament, rather disposed to inflamatory and bilious attacks.

July 16th 1851 Last night he was taken with chills, fever and excruciating sticking pain in the left side just below the left nipple. He has coughing and spitting of mucus of a rusty bloody appearance, high inflamatory fever; pulse 120 per a minute firm and sharp tongue thickly coated brown and dry; very thirsty; severe pain in fore part of head and temples; eyes have a glassy glassy appearance, the bowels are inactive, no apetite —

Pres Aconite and Bryonia alternately every 2 hours —

In the evening the pain, fever, and all the symptoms, have very much abated soon after taking the medicine he inclined to sleep he cannot lie on the left side

Continues the same medicine every 3 hours through the night

July 17th A.M. He rested tolerably well last night still continues to expectorate considerable of the rusty mucus; fever and pain in the side very much diminished, pulse 85 per min

more inclined to be loose —

Ds to continue some remedies every 4 h

This evening the symptoms in some respects are near the same as in the mo-ning with the exception of oppression & he and difficulty of breathing, more feverish & thirsty than in the morning, In a word he is very much excited, his uncle and cousin two doctors of the old Stamp called on him during my absence, and made an examina of the case, and gave an unfavourable prognosis, unless he would submit to be bled blistered etc, after the old fashion This he & his parents firmly resisted till I should co but by that time they were gone As soon I discovered how matters were, I gave the all the reasonable encouragement that was necessary, and gave them permission to let their uncle and cousin, (who reckon among t first Allopaths here) to visit as often as th saw fit to come, but to be sure and pa no attention to any thing they might say nor take any thing that they might offer

They continued to visit daily, but I never had the pleasure of meeting with them till they found he would get well in spit of all they could do to kill him, then they left the field clear but not convinced

He takes Phosphorus every 3 hours during
night

July 18th A.M. Had a restless night, suffered
good deal of pain in left side, not so much
just now; feels more comfortable; coughs
a good deal and continues the same pecu-
-liar expectoration; cannot lie on the left s
the pain is not aggravated by coughing; very
thirsty; pulse considerably increased; bow
more quiet; urine high coloured and cloudy
on standing; pain and soreness in head;
face flushed and red; tongue inclines to be
dry; some symptoms of effusion into the left
cavity of the pleura

Takes Bryonia 3 every 3 hours.

July 21st He has been gradually improving
since the 18th on Bryonia Aconite & Tartar Eme

July 22nd He is a great deal better in every
way; symptoms of abnormal kind nearly all
gone; pulse 75 per minute; tongue continu
dry, but little thirst; head-ache gone, scar
-ly any pain or soreness in the side; coug
but little, expectoration free from bloody t
breathing slow and natural. From this time o
the use of Bryonia and Phosphorus, in a few
days, without any relapse or untoward sy
-ptoms he recovered perfectly, and has co
time [illegible] good health [illegible]

I regret that I did not record the phy-
-ical signs in this case, which I should ha
done had I thought it would ever have b
transcribed for this or any other purpose

I should have been pleased, had the
time permitted, to have introduced, at le
one or two cases of chronic disease tre
-ed Homoeopathically, and in which more
remedies had been used.

In all the forgoing remarks, I have
neglected to say any thing about the
principle, on which the Homoeopathic
remedies (operate) are supposed to opera
which I had at first designed